



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

CONTACTS:

Jared Touchin, Communications Director
(928) 274-4275

Crystalyne Curley, Sr. Public Information Officer
(928) 274-2758

nnopvp.communications@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 20, 2019

President and Vice President urge public to prepare for winter storm

WINDOW ROCK – President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer are urging the public to take precautions in anticipation of the largest snow storm of the winter season that is expected to bring as much as 12-inches of snow to the Navajo Nation on Thursday and Friday. An emergency declaration was issued for the Navajo Nation on Tuesday, which allows for local/chapter funding to be used to assist those in need with supplies such as fire wood, food, and other resources.

In addition, President Nez issued a memorandum granting administrative leave for the Executive Branch on Feb. 21 and 22, under the advisement of the Navajo Nation Department of Emergency Management in coordination with the National Weather Service.

The memorandum states, “Although this authorization has been made, we actively encourage employees to telecommute to the extent possible during this time and/or volunteer in their communities to account for the paid time off.”

President Nez also urges chapters to remain open for those needing shelter or resources during the storm. Public safety and emergency response personnel will also remain on duty.

“The safety and well-being of our people is the top priority, and we continue to ask everyone to help one another by checking on your neighbors especially the elderly and disabled,” stated President Nez. “Please stay home and keep warm if you are not required to travel.”

President Nez and Vice President Lizer met with the Navajo Nation Department of Emergency Management, Division of Transportation, Indian Health Service, and other agencies on Wednesday afternoon to receive updates and recommendations for the pending snow storm.

“It’s good to hear that chapters are working together with each other and with other entities to provide resources like food donations to the elderly and disabled,” stated Vice President Lizer. “We need to look out for one another and help each other through this storm.”

The Navajo Nation Division of Transportation reported that they are coordinating with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to clear snow from roadways and will continue doing so throughout the duration of the stormy weather. Indian Health Service reported that their services have not been impacted

by the weather conditions and will continue providing services at all locations. Several school districts have also announced delays and cancellations.

Those in need of resources are asked to contact their chapter for assistance, in accordance with the emergency declaration issued on Tuesday.

#

For the latest news from the Office of the President and Vice President, please visit <http://www.opvp.navajo-nsn.gov/> or find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

THE NAVAJO NATION

JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT



MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL NAVAJO NATION EMPLOYEES
Executive Branch Divisions/Departments

FROM: *Jonathan Nez*
Jonathan Nez, President
THE NAVAJO NATION
Myron Lizer
Myron Lizer, Vice President
THE NAVAJO NATION

DATE: February 20, 2019

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF SIXTEEN (16) HOUR EXECUTIVE BRANCH CLOSURE

Under the advisement of the Navajo Nation Department of Emergency Management, in coordination with the National Weather Service, this memorandum will serve as an official notification that sixteen (16) hours of administrative leave will be granted for Navajo Nation Executive Branch Employees, both regular and temporary, beginning on **Thursday, February 21, 2019 at 8:00am and ending on Friday, February 22, 2019 at 5:00pm**. The safety of our employees helped determine this decision after assessing the extreme winter weather that will impact the Navajo Nation in the coming days.

Although this authorization has been made, we actively encourage employees to telecommute to the extent possible during this time and/or volunteer in their communities to account for the paid time off. We encourage everyone to prepare for the cold weather and be sure to check on family members who may live in areas not easily accessible to first responders. Please notify the proper authorities for any emergencies that may occur due to the weather.

In some cases, this authorization may not apply to emergency responders and other employees deemed essential at this time. Those employees will continue on their regular schedules to maintain needed services across our communities. Should you have any questions, please contact your respective division/departments or the Office of the President and Vice President at (928) 871-7000.

Xc: Office of the Speaker
24th Navajo Nation Council
Judicial Branch
File